Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~medical device~~ stent for implanting in a patient, comprising:

a ~~device~~ stent body with a surface;

an attachment region within the stent surface, wherein the attachment region comprises a cavity in the stent surface having an open end and an opposing closed end, the cavity having a base surface at the closed end and a side wall extending from the closed end to the open end; and

a ceramic component comprising

a first porous ceramic region, and

a second porous ceramic region, wherein the second porous ceramic region is less porous than the first porous ceramic region, the ceramic component connects to the attachment region through the second porous ceramic region coupled to the base surface of the closed end, and the second porous ceramic region is positioned in between the first porous ceramic region and the base surface of the attachment region such that the first porous ceramic region and the base surface of the attachment region are located on opposite sides of the second porous ceramic region. ~~region;~~

~~wherein the device is a stent.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 6 wherein one or both of the porous regions releasably contains a drug.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 7 wherein the drug comprises at least one of a smooth-muscle-cell vascular activity inhibitor, a wound healing enhancer, an agent for improving the structural properties in a vascular site, an agent for

improving the elastic properties of a vascular site, an antineoplastic substance, an anti-inflammatory substance, an antiplatelet substance, an anticoagulant substance, an antifibrin substance, an antithrombin substance, an antimitotic substance, an antibiotic substance, an antiallergy substance, an antioxidant substance, alpha-interferon, genetically engineered epithelial cells, rapamycin, actinomycin D, paclitaxel or docetaxel.

9. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 6 further comprising a polymer layer over the ceramic component, over a portion of the ~~medical device~~ stent not including the ceramic component, or both.

10. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 6 further comprising an auxiliary component with at least one auxiliary-component attachment region disposed in or on the surface of the auxiliary component and wherein the ceramic component is disposed on or within at least one auxiliary-component attachment region.

11. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 10 further comprising a third porous region disposed in the ceramic component wherein the third porous region is less porous than the first and wherein the ceramic component connects to at least one auxiliary-component attachment region through the third porous region.

12. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 11 wherein the ceramic component is fused to at least one auxiliary-component attachment region through the third porous region.

13. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 11 further comprising an oxide layer disposed between the third porous region and at least one auxiliary-component attachment region.

14. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 11 wherein the surface or auxiliary-component surface, or both, comprise a metal, glass, or ceramic.

15. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 14 wherein metal comprises iron, cobalt, nickel, manganese, stainless steel, tantalum, niobium, super-elastic nickel-titanium alloys, titanium, silver, gold, platinum, steel, or aluminum.

16. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 14 wherein glass comprises borosilicate glass, lead glass, soda glass, uranium glass, soft glass, fused quartz, or fused silica.

17. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 14 wherein ceramic comprises carbide ceramics, oxide ceramics, nitride ceramics, or boride ceramics.

18. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 14 wherein ceramic comprises titania, zirconia, hafnia, silica, alumina, silica alumina, silicon carbide, tungsten carbide, silicon boronitride, boronitride, silicon, or gallium arsenide.

19. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 10 wherein the auxiliary component is one of an electrode, a physical sensor, or a chemical sensor.

20. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 10 further comprising a polymer layer disposed over the auxiliary component, over a portion of the ~~medical device~~ stent not including the auxiliary component, or both.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 6 wherein the surface of the comprises plastic, metal, glass, or ceramic.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 22 wherein metal comprises iron, cobalt, nickel, manganese, stainless steel, tantalum, niobium, super-elastic nickel-titanium alloys, titanium, silver, gold, platinum, steel, or aluminum.

24. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 22 wherein glass comprises borosilicate glass, lead glass, soda glass, uranium glass, soft glass, fused quartz, or fused silica.

25. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 22 wherein ceramic comprises carbide ceramics, oxide ceramics, nitride ceramics, or boride ceramics.

26. (Withdrawn) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 22 wherein ceramic comprises titania, zirconia, hafnia, silica, alumina, silica alumina, silicon carbide, tungsten carbide, silicon boronitride, boronitride, silicon, or gallium arsenide.

27. (Currently Amended) A ~~medical device~~ stent for implanting in a patient comprising:

a) a stent surface comprising a metal;

b) an attachment region disposed within the stent surface, wherein the attachment region comprises an indentation in the stent surface;

c) a ceramic component comprising a glass or ceramic, the ceramic component having a first porous ceramic or glass side and a second less porous ceramic or glass side, wherein the less porous ceramic or glass side of the ceramic component is fused on or within the attachment region; and

d) an oxide layer disposed on or within the attachment region between the surface of the ~~device~~ stent and the ceramic component. ~~component;~~

~~wherein the medical device is a stent.~~

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~medical device~~ stent of Claim 27 further comprising a drug releasably disposed in the first porous side.

30. – 46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 6 wherein an oxide layer is disposed between the attachment region and the second porous ceramic region.

48. (Currently Amended) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 47 wherein the oxide layer comprises an oxide of the material of which the ~~medical device~~ stent body is comprised.

49. (Currently Amended) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 6 wherein the attachment region is created by removing some of the material from the ~~medical device~~ stent body.

50. (Currently Amended) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 6 wherein the ceramic component comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of carbide ceramics, oxide ceramics, nitride ceramics, boride ceramics, and combinations thereof.

51. (Currently Amended) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 6 wherein the ceramic component comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of borosilicate glass, lead glass, soda glass, uranium glass, soft glass, fused quartz, fused silica, and combinations thereof.

52. (Currently Amended) The ~~medical device~~ stent of claim 6 wherein the surface of the attachment region matches the thermal characteristics of the ceramic component.

53. (New) The stent of claim 6 wherein the first porous ceramic region of the ceramic component is in intimate contact with and extending from the second porous ceramic region of the ceramic component.